

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Although the following information is dated, the organizational and personality information contained therein may be of value.

Minister and Assistant Minister

1. The Minister of Trade and Supply of the People's Republic of Serbia is Radovan Grkovic, a major in the UDB of the Republic and also affiliated with the Belgrade UDB. He reportedly has an unsavory reputation among the population because of some of his wartime activities.
2. Assistant Ministers have been changed frequently. Jaksa Bogdanovic, a member of Dragoljub Jovanovic's Agrarian Party, has been transferred to another unspecified position and replaced by Petar Covic. In January 1950 Bogdanovic's brother was arrested as a spy, and his sister-in-law committed suicide when the UDB came to arrest her. Stava Renovica, Bogdanovic's secretary, suspected of acting as liaison between Bogdanovic and an unidentified espionage ring, was arrested by the UDB, interrogated and mistreated.

Ministry

3. The Ministry is composed of the following subdivisions:
 - a. Cabinet: Mirko Radivojevic is the Chief.
 - b. Administration for Statistics: Miroslav Blagojevic, described as an opportunist professing Communism for political reasons, is the chief.
 - c. Secretariat : Gavra Bajazetov, a Communist and former employee of the People's Council in Curug, is chief.
 - d. Archives.
 - e. Trade Sector: Petar Covic, who is also Assistant Minister, is chief. Covic, a Communist, is reportedly unintelligent and incapable. The Trade Sector, the real operating body of the Ministry, comprises the following:

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- 1) Directorate for Industrial Merchandise: Sredoje Cvorovic, a Communist and UDB agent is the chief. He is a former teacher from a town near Uzice and is reportedly not capable.
- 2) Directorate for Foodstuffs: Chief, Toma Stamenkovic, a Party member.
- 3) Directorate for Market Trade: Chief, Dusan Janjic, a Party member.
- 4) Directorate for Free Trade: Chief, Grad. Nedeljovic, a Party member.
- 5) Directorate for Children's Supplies: Chief, Milica Milosevic, a Party member.

These five groups have the responsibility of allotting supplies to shops and markets, the collection and distribution of industrial products, the exercise of supervisory control, and can propose new commercial legislation.

- f. Planning Sector: Nikola Cobeljic, a Communist, and formerly head of the Planning Sector, described as an intelligent man, was appointed vice president of the council for merchandise traffic in 1950. he was succeeded by a certain Calic, formerly general director for leather and rubber. Calic, described as a Communist of average ability concerned mostly with his career, allegedly still secretly carries on his religious practices.

The Planning Sector has four divisions:

- 1) The Distribution Group drafts the plans for the use of various types of merchandise; these plans are then turned over to the Trade Sector. Chief of this organ is Ljubinko Predin, a Communist, reportedly unskilled and lacking in energy.
 - 2) The Control Group for the Execution of Plans is headed by Branko Gjuraskovic, a Party member and an intelligent and energetic worker.
 - 3) The Section on Trade Networks and Manpower. It was this department which closed all the private shops in Serbia and created the State trade network. Its former head, Milutin Starcevic, was later expelled from the party. At present his department calculates the number of employees necessary for the various state trading enterprises.
 - 4) The Section for the Study of the Standard of Living. After receiving information from the Administration for Statistics and after making their own surveys, this department studies methods of improving the living standards of workers and employees (sic). Vidoje Trickovic, a Communist, is head of this section.
- g. Organization and Instruction Sector (newly created): Vladimir Vukseonovic, former Assistant Minister of Justice, is in charge. His work is largely political in scope, and since he is a UDB major, he probably controls the Party and labor union activities.

This Sector has the general functions of supervising the political situation in the Ministry and in the People's Councils, the quality of merchandise, and the observance of trade regulations, in addition to scrutinizing all financial transactions for evidence of dishonesty. Under this sector are found:

- 1) Revisions section, which controls the accounts of the People's Councils.
- 2) Section for quality control. Composed of only two employees, whose duties and powers are not well defined.
- 3) Personnel section: Pavle Krtenic, also a UDB functionary, is chief. Allegedly limited in his intellectual capacity, he exercises terroristic control over the employees of the Ministry.
- 4) The manpower section is headed by a certain Potkonjak, a Communist.

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- 5) The instruction section is headed by a certain Seratlic, a Communist.
- 6) The control section is headed by a certain Uzelac, a Communist.
4. Morale among the employees of the Ministry is very low, with several purges reportedly having taken place. The workers who were not discharged were transferred to unspecified duties in the Kosmet.
5. Cominformism has reportedly not been completely stamped out, even after Milos Markovic, director of the price bureau, and Slavojin Jeremic, assistant director for statistics were arrested. The demand of Ljubinko Predin, head of the Trade Union branch of the Ministry that all Cominformists be expelled from the union, was received with complete lack of enthusiasm by the members, none of whom would second the motion.

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